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EDITORIAL.—A distinguished botanist has said, "He who demolishes a false species does better service than one who establishes a new one." Of the truth of this there can be no doubt, but the trouble lies in its application. We venture to assert that if there was any way by which such distinguished service could be permanently recorded with the change, as there is when a new species is made, that just as many botanists would be earnestly trying to destroy species as are now eager to establish new ones.

PROF. ALPHONSO WOOD died at his home at West Farms, N. Y., January 4th, at the age of 71. Prof. Wood's name is known throughout the country wherever the science of Botany is studied. His Text-books and Manuals were very popular and found a warm reception in very many schools and botanical libraries. His whole object in arranging and describing species seemed to be to make it easy for beginners to find the names. While, of course, no such thought should enter into the writing of a strictly scientific description, it is very refreshing to the puzzled student sometimes to turn from such a one to another from which all difficulties have been cleared away and characters used that any one can see. It was for this reason that Prof. Wood's books found such ready sale and such probably was the sole spirit of his work. As a scientific botanist his work can never rank very high, but as an educator his name will always be remembered.

A NOTE IN *Nature* says that a plant recently introduced by accident into Queensland (*Xanthium strumarium*) is giving trouble to the colonists on account of its poisonous effects on cattle. Extract of the plant being administered for experiment produced torpidity gradually increasing till without struggling or excitement the breathing ceased, after which the heart's action became feeble and stopped. From smaller doses the animals recovered. Extracts of *X. spinosum* gave similar results. Does any one know whether cattle in this country eat these weeds, and if so, whether any ill effects are noticeable?

M. HENRY POLONIE has advanced the theory that the gritty particles near the core in pears and allied fruits, called sometimes "stone-cells," are the rudimentary remains of a stone enclosing the seeds of some ancestor of our present pears. The theory is supported by the fact that a series of fruits can be made in which there is a regular gradation from almost no stone-cells to where they are in contact and form a kind of casing for the seeds; and also some related genera have stony fruits.

PROF. W. W. BAILEY is preparing a "Botanical Collector's Handbook," which is to be published by Geo. A. Bates of Salem, Mass.,

and issued in the early spring. There could be no one better fitted for giving directions for collecting and preserving plants than Mr. Bailey, and aided as he is by others who have had long experience, the book will undoubtedly be all that it claims. Such a work has never been published in this country and when it has come into use botanical collectors will wonder how they ever did without it. To secure copies early and promptly orders should be sent on to the publisher at once. The price is \$1.50.

BERNARD QUARITCH, 15 Piccadilly, London, is advertising three very rare and costly botanical works. They are Elwes' Monograph of the genus *Lilium*, in 7 parts, royal folio, colored plates of every known species of the genus, for £7, 7s.; Clarke's Commelynaceæ et Cyrtandraceæ Bengalenses, royal folio, 95 plates, for £1; Boott's Illustrations of the Genus *Carex*, 4 vols. folio, 600 plates, for £21.

OUR EXCHANGE DRAWER is filled this month with a lot of publications that are very common in this enterprising country. There are "Floral Cultures," "Floral Instructors," "Floral Albums," "Horticultural Reviews," etc., etc., all printed on flimsy paper, with wretched typography and still more wretched matter, yet all claiming to be indispensable and authoritative. Scraps of doggerel, senseless correspondence and sickly sentiment go to make up the contents of these valuable periodicals. How people can be deluded enough to publish such stuff, or, still worse, subscribe for it, is more than we can understand.

CAREX SULLIVANTII, Boott., A HYBRID. — During the past twelve months I have distributed a considerable number of *Carex Sullivantii* among U. S. botanists, at first without suspecting it to be other than a true species, but later with the honest conviction that it is a hybrid. My views were communicated to Prof. Gray in June last, and he urged me to make them public, which is the object of this communication.

This pseudo-species was discovered by Sullivant, at Columbus, Ohio, nearly forty years ago, in one small spot growing with *C. gracillima* and *C. pubescens*. Its barren perigynia led him to suspect it might be a hybrid between these two species. He subsequently transplanted it into his garden, where he watched it for several years, but could never find mature achenia. Dr. Boott says "achenia abortive."

Dr. S. H. Wright, (Penn Yan, N. Y.) to whom I am indebted for the above *resume*, adds: "I think you are the only person who has since found it; and, as the abortive fruit in your plants makes your experience with it the same as Sullivant's, together with the fact that it has lain nearly forty years before re-discovery, renders the conclusion, that it is a hybrid, a pretty safe one."

The re-discovery of this plant was in June, 1879. I found it in a low meadow near the bank of a swampy stream, in the midst of *C. gracillima* and *C. pubescens*. That it partakes of the character of both these species there can be no doubt whatever. Of the former are its spikelets, of the latter its perigynia, though smaller. At flowering